BRITISH COLUMBIA

2008-00261/

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2006FOR0040-000593
May 15, 2006

Ministry of Forests and Range

GOVERNMENT CREATES NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR BEACHCOMBERS

VICTORIA – The Ministry of Forests and Range has issued a licence for a new log receiving station, creating another option for beachcombers wishing to sell logs on the Fraser River, Minister Rich Coleman announced today.

"Beachcombers in the Lower Mainland asked us to look at whether we could establish another place for them to sell their logs," said Coleman. "By issuing this licence, we're able to respond to that need, and we expect to see more logs coming out of the river and going to local mills."

The Western Log Sort and Salvage Co-operative plans to establish a log salvage receiving station with a main facility on the Fraser River and a satellite station in Howe Sound. The co-op will receive marine logs from permitted salvors, return marked logs to their owners, and sell unmarked logs through open auction.

Before issuing the licence, the ministry invited public comment on the proposal and received 44 submissions.

"Our goal is to improve the economics of beachcombing for the benefit of the Fraser River and the marine environment," said Mitchell Anderson of the Labour Environmental Alliance Society, one of the members of the co-op. "By operating this receiving station, we are hoping we can get more stray logs out of the river where they don't belong, and into the hands of wood processing companies who can make good use of them."

In order to remove timber in the Vancouver Log Salvage District – whether in the water or on beaches below the high watermark – beachcombers must be permitted by the Province. The district stretches from Otter Point on Southern Vancouver Island, up the Fraser River into Harrison and Stave Lakes on the Lower Mainland, and includes the entire Strait of Georgia and Queen Charlotte Strait.

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Media contact:
Max Cleeveley
Communications Director
Ministry of Forests and Range
250 387-8486

Mitchell Anderson
Western Log Sort and Salvage Co-operative
604 727-1530

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